

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2011 CWPA RESEARCH GRANTS

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Funding Opportunities and General Information

The Research Grants Committee (RGC) of the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) invites proposals for research projects that investigate issues and practices in writing program administration.

“General” and “Targeted” Funding Opportunities

For 2011 grant applications and awards, we seek proposals in two funding-opportunity categories: “General Research” and a new initiative, “Targeted Research.”

General research. The General Funding category continues the RGC’s practice of funding several smaller-award projects investigating a wide variety of issues related to the work of writing program direction in its various forms.

Targeted research. The Targeted Funding category will fund fewer but larger-award projects that will address a much-discussed problem in our field. As CWPA past president Chris Anson explains the issue, “As a field of inquiry, composition studies has . . . [not strived] to communicate important ideas, perspectives, and findings to broader audiences” (28).

For the 2011 Targeted Funding, we invite proposals for projects that conduct what Richard Haswell has called “RAD inquiry”: research that is “replicable, aggregable, and data supported.” “RAD scholarship,” as defined by Haswell “is a best effort inquiry into the actualities of a situation, inquiry that is explicitly enough systematicized in sampling, execution, and analysis to be replicated; exactly enough circumscribed to be extended; and factually enough supported to be verified” (201).¹

Specifically, for Targeted Funding we seek research RAD-inquiry proposals that conduct

- multiple-site/institution research, and/or
- investigations into the connections between secondary and post-secondary writing instruction, student success, and/or policy.

¹ Note that neither we nor Haswell mean to confine the term to mean strictly “quantitative.” Such research could also include combinations of qualitative, ethnographic, and other methods, so long as the research advances our field’s knowledge in a way that extends beyond mere accumulation.

Table 1: Summary of General and Targeted Funding Opportunities

	General Research	Targeted Research
Research emphasis / funding source	Research that addresses important issues for WPAs and other writing-instruction professionals. (In past years, CWPA has considered all research as “general.”)	Research that is “replicable, aggregable, and data supported” and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtains and analyzes data from multiple sites or institutions, and/or • examines the connections between secondary and postsecondary writing instruction, student success, and/or policy.
Funds available, number of awards, maximum award	\$5000 awarded to four to eight recipients; average award about \$1000; maximum award \$1500.	\$4000 awarded to one or two recipients; average award between \$2000 and \$4000; maximum award \$4000.
Eligibility	Applicants must be current WPA members; all current WPA members are eligible to apply.	
Special considerations	We encourage proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from individuals or groups working at two-year colleges and from colleges that service historically underrepresented group; • with budgets that include matching funds from their institution or other funding agencies. 	
Deadline	Proposals are due January 1, 2011. (Note: this deadline is earlier than in past years.)	

Organization of the Proposal

Please organize your proposal into the following sections:

1. **Cover page** with:
 - a. Names and institutional affiliations of all investigators (do not identify yourself or your institution in any other part of the proposal);
 - b. Project title;
 - c. Contact information: mailing address, email address, and phone number for main contact person;
 - d. Funding Preference: state whether you want your proposal to be considered for “General Research” or “Targeted Research” funding. (Note: If you choose “Targeted Research,” and your proposal is not funded in that category, it will be considered for funding from the “General Grants” funds.)
2. **Project overview of no more than two pages**, single-spaced, in which you do the following:

- Explain the problem or question your research project will investigate or attempt to solve, and make clear, if necessary, why this is a significant problem/question for the field.
 - Briefly sketch the methodology you plan to use to approach the problem.
 - If appropriate, describe how the project will address the problem or question you have identified.
 - Provide a timetable detailing how the project will proceed.
 - Connect the project to previously published research and scholarship.
 - Describe your (and/or your team's) expertise and experience in this area.
 - Describe how the results will be shared professionally (see "Expectations of Reward Recipients" below).
3. **Realistic, detailed budget on a separate page.** *For grants over \$1000, in-kind budget items or alternative budget sources must be included in the budget. State also whether you will accept partial funding.*

Criteria for Selection

Successful proposals pursue research that will help the CWPA achieve its mission and goals as stated in its constitution:²

The National Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) represents teachers and researchers whose teaching and scholarship focus on intellectual and pedagogical aspects of writing programs and their administration. Its goal is to provide resources, support, and services on matters attendant to the administration of writing programs. Writing programs, for CWPA's purposes, specifically include all writing-across-the-disciplines programs, writing centers, and writing courses with multiple sections. .

The RGC will use these criteria to conduct blind review of all proposals.

Significance, relevance, generalizability

- ✓ Does the project address an important problem that is relevant to the work of writing program administrators—i.e., that will make an original and significant contribution?
- ✓ If the aims of the project are achieved, how will writing-program-administration knowledge and practice be advanced?
- ✓ Will the project's aims apply to contexts outside of the immediate institutional context of origin? (Note: "proof of concept" and "model program" projects may be considered generalizable.)

Innovation

- ✓ Is the project original and innovative? For example: does the project challenge existing practices or address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field?
- ✓ Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

Methods and feasibility

- ✓ Are the methods clearly described?
- ✓ Is the methodology adequately developed, well-reasoned, and likely to result in useful findings?

Environment(s)

² <http://wpacouncil.org/files/CWPA%20Constitution%202009%20draft%203-1.pdf>.

- ✓ Is/are the environment/environments well-suited to the aims—i.e., does the proposed project benefit from the unique features of the institution, or populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements?
- ✓ Not required but helpful: Does the proposal aim to study populations or settings that have been underrepresented in writing-program research?

Cost Effectiveness

- ✓ Does the budget clearly explain costs?
- ✓ Are the budget items reasonable? When appropriate, does the budget (or narrative) explain why certain items are justified?
- ✓ Do the project's outcomes justify the project's expenses—are the CWPA and its members getting a good “bang for the buck?”
- ✓ Not required for grants under \$1000 but helpful for all proposals: Does the budget include in-kind or matching funds from other sources (such as the institution or other funding agencies)?

Sharing of project findings

- ✓ Not required but helpful: Is there a plan for sharing the results broadly, such as the creation of a website or other digital venue?

Restrictions and Preferences

Ordinarily, funding will not be given for

- Release time for the grantee or others
- Outside consultants or evaluators
- The production of non-researched materials
- Dissertation research
- Equipment
- Travel to present research at WPA or any other conference (funding for travel to conferences for research purposes may be considered)
- Supplements to existing grants, unless it is clear that the CWPA grant provides an opportunity to extend the project in new directions
- Institutional overhead (in rare cases, proposals requesting a maximum of 10% of the award total may be funded)
- Multiple proposals in a given funding year (i.e., do not submit more than one proposal)
- Proposals from CWPA Executive Board or Research Grants Committee members who have served during the current year or previous three years

The RGC will give first consideration for awards to those who have not received an award for three or more years.

Expectations of Award Recipients

Publication: Recipients are expected to publish or present their research in one or more of the following venues:

- *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, the journal of the Council of Writing Program Administrators: grantees are expected to submit articles resulting from the research to *WPA* for first consideration;
- other print or online journals;
- digital venues: research articles can be uploaded to ERIC (free), Google Scholar (free), or other venues;

- WPA Summer Conference (held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 2011 and in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2012); research can be presented during a session or as a poster.

Final Report: Grantees are expected to submit a final written report of their research outcomes to the Chair of the Research Grants Committee by June 15 of the year after the completion of the grant. Ordinarily, reports will be five to seven pages in length, but up to ten pages is acceptable. These reports should outline specific plans for submitting an article reporting the results to the *WPA: Writing Program Administration* journal and/or other plans for sharing results.

Guidance for Developing Strong Proposals

The RGC is eager to help you develop strong projects and proposals. We also want to help you avoid wasting your time on projects that have little chance of success.

Getting Advice and Guidance about Your Project and Proposal

For advice about specific projects, please contact Barb L'Eplattenier, Past Chair of the Research Grants Committee. Because she will not participate in proposal selection, you can discuss specifics with her, and she can provide specific advice. You can reach Professor L'Eplattenier by email at bleplatt@ualr.edu.

You can find more guidelines for developing strong proposals, including examples of past funded proposals at <http://wpacouncil.org/grants/index.html>. This site is under construction but will be available no later than November 1, 2011.

Getting Answers to General Questions about Submission, Format, etc.

For general advice and guidance, please email Chuck Paine, Chair of the Research Grants Committee, at cpaine@unm.edu.

Submitting the Proposal

Please submit your proposals as a Microsoft Word or RTF attachment to an email sent to RGC Chair Chuck Paine at cpaine@unm.edu. **Please use this email subject line: "CWPA Research Proposal 2011."**

Deadline

Emails must be received no later than January 1, 2011.

Award Announcements

Winners will be announced at the 2011 CWPA breakfast at the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Those who submit proposals will be informed by email in February whether their project was funded and in what amounts.

Works Cited

- Anson, Chris M. "The Intelligent Design of Writing Programs: Reliance on Belief or a Future of Evidence." *WPA: Writing Program Administration* 32.1 (2008): 11–36. Print.
- Haswell, Richard. "NCTE/CCCC's Recent War on Scholarship." *Written Communication* 22.2 (2005): 198–223. Print.